



# OPAL CREEK

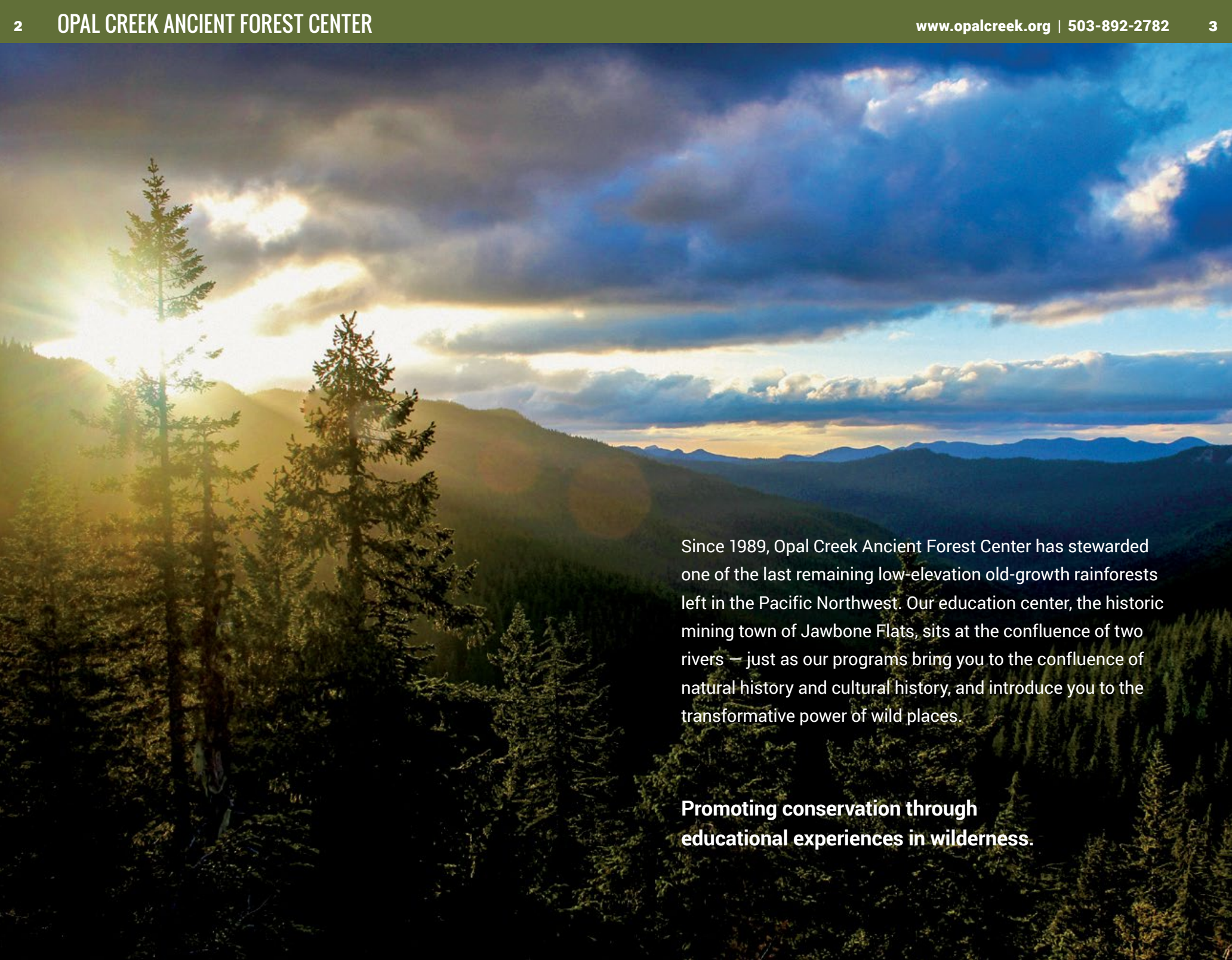
## ANCIENT FOREST CENTER

# 2017

## CATALOG







Since 1989, Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center has stewarded one of the last remaining low-elevation old-growth rainforests left in the Pacific Northwest. Our education center, the historic mining town of Jawbone Flats, sits at the confluence of two rivers — just as our programs bring you to the confluence of natural history and cultural history, and introduce you to the transformative power of wild places.

**Promoting conservation through educational experiences in wilderness.**



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\*Workshop and Expedition costs include lodging and meals, beginning with dinner the day of arrival and ending with lunch the day of departure.



# About

The Opal Creek watershed — 35,000 acres of protected rainforest, part of the last remaining low-elevation old-growth forest in the Pacific Northwest. Soaring trees dripping with moss, crystal-clear streams, and a diversity of old-growth-dependent species make Opal Creek a unique gem in Oregon’s crown.

Since 1996, this watershed has also been home to one of the leading forest ecology outdoor education programs in our region. Centered in Jawbone Flats, a privately-owned off-grid 1930s mining town in the heart of the wilderness, today we host over 3,000 visitors a year in our outdoor school, workshops, wilderness medicine trainings, backpacking expeditions, and cabin rentals. Tens of thousands more pass through on the popular day-hiking and backpacking trails to see the legendary pools and waterfalls of the Little North Santiam, and the expansive views of uncut forest.

That forest remains uncut thanks to a statewide campaign in the 1980s and early 1990s, led by local resident George Atiyeh. After fifty years of small-scale mining, Opal Creek tracts were being threatened by sales to timber companies, who came up against unexpected opposition by Oregonians who felt that Opal Creek was too special to be cut. In 1989 our organization was established as Friends of Opal Creek to lead the conservation effort, and finally in 1996 permanent protection was secured for what is now the Opal Creek Wilderness and Scenic Recreation Areas.

This complex history — from native tribes to mining to the timber wars to federal protection — lives on with us today. We educate in order to raise questions about our relationships with the natural world. We challenge our visitors to minimize their impact and maximize their legacy. Our mission: Promoting conservation through educational experiences in wilderness.



# Because nature is the best classroom.

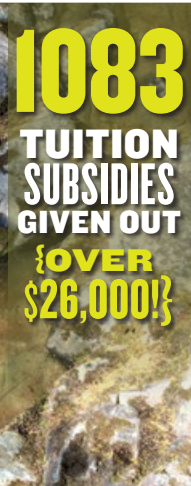
Every spring and fall, Jawbone Flats comes alive with students, exploring, discovering, and uncovering the world around them. Our classroom — the largest remaining low-elevation old-growth forest in the Pacific Northwest, a rainforest watershed protected from ridgeline to ridgeline. Our programs bring students into contact with an astonishing diversity of plants, fungi, lichen, macro-invertebrates, and amphibians, as they study every aspect of forest ecology.

Opal Creek outdoor school is customized to each class's needs and goals. Activities include:

- Interpretive hikes
- Outdoor and indoor labs
- Extended field studies
- Evening programs
- Creative arts

Our teaching philosophy is inquiry-based and hands-on, with opportunities for students to see complex concepts in action, apply scientific principles, and participate in fieldwork and data collection. Our professional instruction team are trained in a variety of teaching methods and maintain active Wilderness First Responder certifications. We welcome education groups from 2nd-12th grade and all university levels to our overnight programs.

Please contact our office at 503-892-2782 to discuss opportunities for your class!



NUMBER OF SCHOOLS:  
**39**

**1083**  
TUITION  
SUBSIDIES  
GIVEN OUT  
{OVER  
\$26,000!}

**1463**  
OUTDOOR  
SCHOOL  
PARTICIPANTS





PHOTO: ANNAMIEKA DAVIDSON

**Workshops at Opal Creek** immerse individuals and families in the ancient forest to learn, reflect, discover, and relax. All of our programs begin with a guided hike in to Jawbone Flats, past some of the biggest and oldest trees in our forest. Workshop topics range from hands-on science and exploration, to the visual arts, and health and wellness.

Our family workshops offer opportunities for multiple generations to come together and explore this special watershed. A mix of adventurous activities is guaranteed to be fun and educational for all ages.

All workshops are professionally taught. Workshop fees include shared lodging plus meals from our fabulous kitchen.

[www.opalcreek.org/2017-workshops](http://www.opalcreek.org/2017-workshops)



### Three-day Ancient Forest Yoga

**APRIL 7-9** | **COST:** \$395, includes meal & shared lodging.

This unplugged three-day off-grid retreat includes a daily Four Directions ceremony, morning and afternoon yoga sessions, and many hours of free time to explore the wild landscapes of Opal Creek. Deepen your movement practice through breath and meditation, and rejuvenate body and soul in nature. This workshop is open to all levels.

Angelina Vasile has been a yoga instructor since 2001, combining Pilates, Forrest yoga, anatomy, psychology, nature, and ceremony in her teachings: [www.angelinavasile.com](http://www.angelinavasile.com)

### Mosses, Lichens, & Liverworts

**APRIL 15-16** | **COST:** \$195, includes meals & shared lodging

Non-vascular plants such as mosses, lichens, and liverworts are drawing increasing attention for their importance as indicators of forest health, air quality and environmental integrity. Join us in investigating hundreds of non-vascular species, many of which are only found in the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest. This course is especially helpful for agency personnel conducting forest health surveys throughout the state.

Instructor John Villella is a professional ecologist, member of the Northwest Lichenologist Society, and former Opal Creek staff instructor.



PHOTO: ALEX YOUNG

### Family Workshop: Amphibian Adventure

**APRIL 29-30** | **COST:** \$195 per adult, \$95 per child 4-13. Free for children 0-3, includes meals & private lodging in a shared cabin

From the Pacific Giant salamander to the unique tailed frog, Opal Creek's intact old-growth and cool clean waters host the full diversity of Pacific Northwest amphibians. Discover and examine the dozen amphibians that call our pristine watershed home. Join our professional staff instructors as we look deep into clear pools and under downed logs for these elusive critters. Tuition includes a copy of Opal Creek's self-published *Field Guide to the Amphibians of Opal Creek*, for use during the weekend and for all future amphibian investigation.

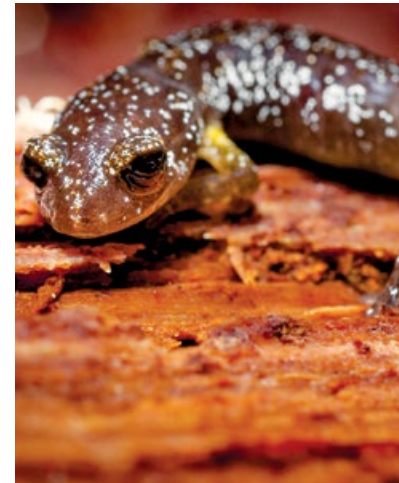


PHOTO: STEVEN DAVID JOHNSON

### Painting in the Ancient Forest

**Session 1: MAY 6-7; Session 2: OCTOBER 7-8** | **COST:** \$250; Supply Fee: \$45, includes meal & shared lodging.

A weekend mixed-media painting retreat in a spectacular natural setting. We will spend time out in the forest collecting imagery and inspiration, drawing and painting along the trail. Returning to the studio, we will learn to incorporate this imagery into lush, layered acrylic paintings that are uniquely yours. Beginners and professionals alike will make new discoveries in this supportive workshop environment.

Annamieka Davidson is a painter based in Portland, Oregon: [annamieka.com](http://annamieka.com)







## Family Workshop: Tree Climbing

**JUNE 10-11** | **COST:** \$450 per adult, \$300 per child (6-13)

Join us for a family weekend in the trees! It's an experience that few in the world have had — sitting atop a mighty Douglas Fir while looking out over a sweeping valley of uncut old-growth canopies. Using non-invasive methods, expert tree climbers Expedition Old Growth will lead us in a unique exploration of the canopy life that is so important to the health of the ancient forest. Due to safety requirements participants must be at least 6 years old.

Climb leader Damien Carré is a certified arborist, owner of Oregon Tree Care, and founder of Expedition Old Growth: [www.expeditionoldgrowth.com](http://www.expeditionoldgrowth.com)



## Adult Tree Climbing

**SEPT 9-10** | **COST:** \$495

Join us for a weekend in the trees! It's an experience that few in the world have had — sitting atop a mighty Douglas Fir while looking out over a sweeping valley of uncut old-growth canopies. Using non-invasive methods, expert tree climbers Expedition Old Growth will lead us in a unique exploration of the canopy life that is so important to the health of the ancient forest. You will have the option of climbing under your own strength or utilizing the elevator ascending method.

Climb leader Damien Carré is a certified arborist, owner of Oregon Tree Care, and founder of Expedition Old Growth: [www.expeditionoldgrowth.com](http://www.expeditionoldgrowth.com)



## Four-day Ancient Forest Yoga

**SEPT 14-17** | **COST:** \$495, includes meal & shared lodging

This unplugged four-day off-grid retreat includes a daily Four Directions ceremony, morning and afternoon yoga sessions, and many hours of free time to explore the wild landscapes of Opal Creek. Deepen your movement practice through breath and meditation, and rejuvenate body and soul in nature. This workshop is open to all levels.

Angelina Vasile has been a yoga instructor since 2001, combining Pilates, yoga, anatomy, psychology, nature, and ceremony in her teachings: [www.angelinavasile.com](http://www.angelinavasile.com)

## Photography in the Ancient Forest

**SEPT 15-17** | **COST:** \$750, includes meals & shared lodging

Learn the digital photography methods that will allow you to capture the Opal Creek forest's natural beauty. We'll study composition on the trails, then head inside to process our work in Adobe Lightroom or Photoshop. A camera with manual adjustment and RAW file capabilities and laptop computer with Lightroom or Photoshop installed are both required as Gary walks us through the complete process of creating and finishing our photographs. This class is structured for all skill levels.

Gary Randall is an Oregon-based landscape and travel photographer: [www.gary-randall.com](http://www.gary-randall.com)



PHOTO: GARY RANDALL

## Ancient Forest Mixology

**OCT 7-8** | **COST:** \$195, includes meals & lodging

Join us in the woods for a one-of-a-kind experience with our favorite Portland drink experts! Combining a few of our favorite things — well-mixed cocktails and the old-growth forest in autumn — we'll treat you to guided hikes by our Opal Creek instructors, delicious hot meals by the renowned Jawbone Flats kitchen, and a 2-hour hands-on mixology class with Merit Badge Co. Consider it your opportunity to study classic cocktails with more than a few twists.

Merit Badge owner Matt Mount has over 20 years of experience in the worlds of bartending, commercial distilling, cocktail classes and spirit education.



## Ancient Forest Mushrooms

**Session 1: OCT 14-15; Session 2: OCT 21-22** | **COST:** \$195, includes meals & shared lodging

Join us to learn about the amazing world of mycology that holds the ancient forest together. In this hands-on workshop, we'll hunt for mushrooms, identify common species, taste edible mushrooms, and learn about the role of fungi in the ancient forest environment. The second day of the workshop will be spent foraging and learning to dye cloth with mushrooms.

Instructor John Villella is a professional ecologist and former Opal Creek staff instructor.







We proudly partner with the Wilderness Medicine Institute (WMI) to present some of the most highly-regarded wilderness medicine courses in a true backcountry setting. You will have the opportunity to practice scenarios in a beautiful and remote environment while enjoying comfortable accommodations and hearty meals.

Shared lodging and meals are available beginning the evening before the course. Visit WMI's website for complete course descriptions and prerequisites: [www.nols.edu/wmi](http://www.nols.edu/wmi)



## Wilderness First Responder Recertification

**Session 1: MARCH 31-APRIL 2;**

**Session 2: SEPT 29-OCT 1 |**

**COST:** \$375, includes meals & shared lodging

This 3-day scenario-based course is designed as review and practice of evacuation and decision-making guidelines. It also provides wilderness medicine practitioners with current updates in the wilderness medicine field.



## Wilderness Upgrade for Medical Professionals

**JUNE 14-18 | COST:** \$950, includes meals & shared lodging

Learn how to improvise equipment, deal with challenging environments, and make difficult medical decisions in remote locations with confidence. Apply your urban emergency care knowledge through five days of intense, hands-on learning. The WUMP course will keep you engaged in wilderness medicine curriculum through case studies and practical scenarios with mock patients.



## Wilderness First Responder

**NOV 3-12 | COST:** \$950, includes meals & shared lodging

This course is recommended for anyone who works or travels in areas where medical care is delayed or communication is unreliable. This course builds competency with the Patient Assessment System while exposing students to the assessment and management principles for a broad range of injuries, illness and environmental medical problems. The intensive 80-hour curriculum, combining classroom instruction and realistic outdoor scenarios, is a nationally-recognized standard for all outdoor professionals.







# Confident. Empowered. Inspired.

A week in the wilderness will transform your child. Our small-group expeditions give campers the skills and autonomy to become outdoor leaders. Our unique model combines backpacking skills with observational science, giving your child hands-on experience with camp cooking, first-aid, plant ID, navigation, and more.

Opal Creek Expeditions follow Leave No Trace principles and maintain a student to staff ratio of 5:1. Our instructors are Wilderness First Responder-certified and trained to handle backcountry medical emergencies.

**Orientation meetings** will be held for parents to meet with our program director and answer your questions about gear, backpack sizing, or camp itineraries. We strongly encourage everyone interested in an Expedition to attend one of these meetings, especially first-time backpackers.

Meetings will take place on **Monday, May 1**, and **Thursday, June 1**, at 7 PM at the Portland REI (1405 NW Johnson St.).  
*Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center operates under a special use permit with the Mt. Hood and Willamette National Forests.*



## Backcountry Basics

**Session 1: JUNE 25-30; Session 2: JULY 2-7;**  
**Session 3: JULY 30-AUG 4; Session 4: AUG 20-25 |**  
**AGES:** 10-12: Average mileage per day: 4 | **COST:** \$495

This backcountry adventure will focus on the skills needed to be a comfortable, competent, and happy hiker. We'll spend a day in Jawbone Flats planning and preparing, then we'll hit the trail to experience first-hand how to take care of ourselves and each other in the wilderness. Camp cooking, wilderness medicine, leadership, and communication skills are all a part of the curriculum, and, of course, swimming! Backcountry Basics is perfect for all skill levels, especially first-timers.

## Among the Ancients

**JULY 9-14 | AGES:** 12-14: Average mileage per day: 5.5 |  
**COST:** \$495

This trip covers lots of ground on a route that will take us to the tallest ridges and mountaintops in the Opal Creek Wilderness: vantage points that offer a glimpse of the magnificent Cascade mountains. From these heights we'll have a birds' eye view of the stages a forest goes through recovering from fire, and learn about forest succession and ecosystem resilience. We'll put miles under our feet so come prepared with broken-in boots and backpacking experience.



## Jawbone Flats Basecamp

**JULY 10-14 | AGES:** 10-12 | **COST:** \$495

Unplug for a week-long camp based in the off-grid town of Jawbone Flats. We'll spend the days getting to know the Opal Creek watershed, from its mining and cultural history, to stream ecology and plant identification. We'll hunt for newts, hit the river for swimming and waterslides, hike to the old mining sites, and camp out in tents on the final night. A perfect combination of the wild outdoors and the creature comforts of our kitchen and lodge.



## River Deep, Mountain High

**JULY 16-21 | AGES:** 12-14: Average mileage per day: 5 |  
**COST:** \$495

Astonishing views of the Cascades, from Mt. Hood to the Three Sisters, will greet us as we traverse ridgelines and descend into valleys in this expedition focusing on the glacial and geologic forces that have shaped our mountains and waterways. On the final day of the trip we'll descend to the Santiam River for a day of rafting with **eNRG Kayaking!** This trip covers lots of ground and lots of water, so bring good boots and good suits!







### Ridgelines and Waterways

**JULY 23-28** | **AGES:** 12-14; Average mileage per day: 5 | **COST:** \$495

Explore Opal Creek's deep valleys, vista views, and pristine lakes in this trip emphasizing backcountry self-sufficiency. We'll discuss packing for an extended trip, review essential gear, and practice wilderness medicine, in addition to knot-tying and navigation skills. On the final day of the trip we'll descend to the Santiam River for a day of rafting with **eNRG Kayaking!**



### Bull of the Woods: Extended Expedition

**JULY 23-30** | **AGES:** 14-18; Average mileage per day: 6 | **COST:** \$535

Hone your backcountry travel and wilderness leadership skills in this eight-day trip through the Opal Creek and Bull of the Woods Wildernesses, exploring old-growth forest, sub-alpine lakes, and expansive views of the Cascades. This trip is designed to expand on previous backpacking experience. We'll practice wilderness first aid, map and compass navigation, and backcountry cooking. Each hiker will work with trip instructors to take on "leader of the day" responsibilities, building your confidence and skill as a backcountry leader.



### Ladies of the Cascades

**AUG 6-11** | **AGES:** 12-15; Average mileage per day: 5 | **COST:** \$495

Ladies, grab your girlfriends for this Cascades lake tour! A route chosen by girls and for girls, we'll spend five nights camping alongside sub-alpine lakes in the heart of the Opal Creek and Bull of the Woods Wilderness Areas. Along the way we'll hike to the tallest ridges in our watershed, view Oregon's highest peaks, and find inspiration in the females who have blazed the trail for us. Strap up your hiking boots for some girl time in the ancient forest! All children identifying as female are welcome to join us on this trip.

### Tour de Lacs: Extended Expedition

**AUG 6-13** | **AGES:** 14-18; Average mileage per day: 7 | **COST:** \$535

Join us for the first time ever in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness! Over the course of eight days we'll hike to several alpine lakes and enjoy majestic vistas over the glacial fields of Mt. Jefferson. This trip is designed to expand on previous backpacking experience. We will practice basic wilderness first aid, map and compass navigation, and backcountry cooking. Each hiker will work with trip instructors to take on "leader of the day" responsibilities, building your confidence and skill as a backcountry leader.



### Going Glacial

**AUG 13-18** | **AGES:** 12-14; Average mileage per day: 5 | **COST:** \$595

On this brand-new trip we'll circumnavigate Three-Fingered Jack, an extinct shield volcano in the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness. As we pass basalt formations and glacial pools, we'll discover firsthand how fire and ice have shaped the landscape of the western Cascades. In camp we'll practice knot-tying and backcountry navigation. On the final day of the trip, we'll descend to the McKenzie River for a day of rafting with **High Country Expeditions!**



### Junior Basecamp

**AUG 14-16** | **AGES:** 8-10 | **COST:** \$300

Unplug for this three-day camp based in the off-grid town of Jawbone Flats. We'll spend the days getting to know the Opal Creek watershed, from its mining and cultural history, to stream ecology and plant identification. We'll hunt for newts, hit the river for swimming and waterslides, and hike to the old mining sites. A perfect combination of the wild outdoors and the creature comforts of our kitchen and lodge.







# Jawbone Stewardship

Keeping a 1930s mining town up and running for over 3,000 visitors a year is no small task. That’s why twice a year we turn to you, our dedicated supporters, for help!

Under the supervision of our facilities director, volunteers will clear debris, stack firewood, touch-up paint, organize, winterize, and help us check items off our to-do list! Volunteers should come ready and able to do manual labor, rain or shine. Bring work clothes, gloves, and rain gear!

Due to liability concerns, participants must be at least 18 years old.

## Volunteer Weekends at Jawbone Flats

**April 7-9**

**October 27-29**

**Cost:** \$50.00, includes meals & shared lodging

If you have specific skills, equipment or experience that could be useful please contact us at [info@opalcreek.org](mailto:info@opalcreek.org) or call **503-892-2782**.

# Stay With Us

Jawbone Flats features four rental cabins that are ideal for individuals and families – from the rustic, cozy charm of a one-bedroom hideaway, to the spectacular spaciousness of our multi-family cabins. Three miles deep into the wilderness and surrounded by mountain streams on two sides, Jawbone Flats is entirely off-the-grid – so get ready for an unplugged experience of total relaxation and exploration.

All of our cabins are equipped with a full kitchen, basic cookware, and propane grills, but you can also let us do the cooking! Our meals are always hearty, healthy, and from-scratch, with dietary restrictions happily accommodated. Due to the remote nature of our site, meals need to be reserved 3-4 weeks in advance.

**Pets are not allowed for overnight stays or in any building in Jawbone Flats.**

**Cabin Pricing:** There is a two-night minimum for all cabins.

Season	Months	Cabin 1	Cabin 4 / Cabin 5	Cabin 7
High Season	May 26 – September 3	All days: \$225	All days: \$375	All days: \$275
Shoulder Season	March 31 – May 25, September 4 – November 11	Weekend (Fri./Sat.): \$175 Midweek: \$125	All days: \$300	Weekend (Fri./Sat.): \$225 Midweek: \$175

## Meal Pricing:

Children under 4 years old eat free.

	Adults	Children ages 4-13
Breakfast	\$12	\$6
Pack-and-go sack lunch	\$10	\$5
Dinner	\$18	\$9

**Getting There:** Jawbone Flats is 3.1 miles from the parking area down a wide trail that follows the river and meanders past some of the oldest trees in our watershed. All of our guests who are physically-able make this gentle hike. We operate a twice-daily gear shuttle, by reservation only, to bring your luggage to and from your vehicle.

We provide one complimentary arrival and departure shuttle per cabin. Guests who choose to forgo the gear shuttle will be thanked with a discount on their reservation total.

An up-to-date cabin availability calendar can be found on our website at [www.opalcreek.org](http://www.opalcreek.org). Please call our Portland office for more information: **503-892-2782**.







## Mark your calendars!

**MAY 19**

### Evening for Opal Creek

Now in its 13th year, our annual spring fundraiser will be the party of the year! Held in the new Lagunitas Community Room in Northeast Portland, we're excited to present the first ever Opal Creek photo contest, as well as live music, silent auction, photo booth, and more!

**JUNE 24**

### Member Day at Jawbone Flats

When you become a member of Opal Creek, you become a member of our family. Join us in Jawbone Flats to celebrate the Opal Creek community, with guided hikes and hands-on activities, live music, lunch and refreshments. Free for all Hemlock, Cedar, and Pacific Yew members.

**AUGUST 25**

### Opal Creek Golf Tournament

The 6th Annual Opal Creek Golf Tournament features a shotgun scramble with mid-course contests, followed by dinner, drinks, and more. Come play at Aloha's beautiful Reserve Vineyards and Golf Course, all in support of Opal Creek outdoor school. Business sponsorships available.



## Join the Opal Creek member family.

You change lives with your gift to Opal Creek. You are giving a child the chance to explore the outdoors in a whole new way. You are teaching them to treat nature with respect and curiosity. You are preparing them to be the leaders of tomorrow.

The child you help could be like Logan, who discovered that he loved learning about owls. Or she could be like Danielle, who found a freedom at Opal Creek that she never knew in the city. Or she could be like Ava, who told us:

**"I will take the knowledge I learned at Opal Creek and help make the world a happier place to live in."**

Membership levels:

- 🌲 **\$50 Douglas Fir level** — can subsidize a 2-night outdoor school program for a student from a low-income school.
- 🌲 **\$100 Hemlock level** — can provide regular service on 2 microscopes for students to use during lichen, mushroom, botany, and geology studies.
- 🌲 **\$250 Cedar level** — can provide hearty, from-scratch meals for 6 students on a 3-day outdoor school program.
- 🌲 **\$500 Pacific Yew level** — can provide a weeklong backpacking trip to a child who can't afford one.

To discover the perks of membership and make a tax-deductible donation today, please visit [www.opalcreek.org/membership](http://www.opalcreek.org/membership) or call 503-892-2782.



Staff



**Executive Director** Katie Ryan joined Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center in March of 2005. She brings over fifteen years of experience organizing and leading field education programs throughout Oregon, Washington, California, the Yellowstone region, and Canada. Before coming to Opal Creek, she was directing programs at OMSI's Cascade Science School. Having spent three years living full time at Jawbone Flats, Opal Creek has become one of her absolute favorite places to share. Katie worked as Program Director from 2005-2009 and took over as Executive Director in October 2009. She now lives in Bend, OR, with her husband Joe and dog Murphy.



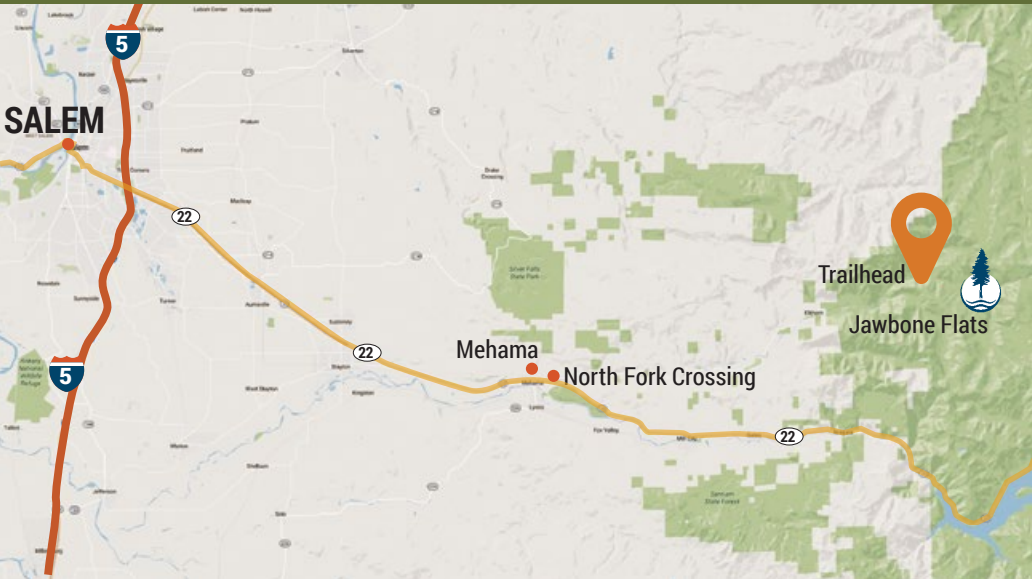
**Director of Programs & Hospitality** Jay Davis joined the Opal Creek team in 2016. An adventurer by heart and experiential educator by trade, he has been inspiring awe and beauty within natural areas since 2002. Previously he developed educational programs for a farm & wilderness preserve in Northern California and served as a field educator at a Southern California outdoor school, in addition to many years supervising residential programs in the upper Midwest.

**Science Instructors** Our professional outdoor science instructors hold degrees in the natural sciences or education, are certified Wilderness First Responders, and are trained in outdoor teaching methodologies and wilderness risk management.

A complete list of the outstanding folks that make this organization hum can be found on our website at [www.opalcreek.org](http://www.opalcreek.org).

Opal Creek Board of Directors

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Stephen Aiguier, <i>Green Hammer</i>       | Josh Kling, <i>Western Rivers Conservancy</i>   |
| Dan Bauer, <i>City of Portland</i>         | Celeste Schaefer Snyder, <i>Storyline Productions &amp; Geller/Goldfine Productions</i> |
| Bill Barnes, <i>University of Portland</i> | Ann Siqveland, <i>OneEnergy Renewables</i>  |
| Stephen Hatfield, <i>REI</i>               | Amy Weeden, <i>Propeller Resources</i>  |
| Carolyn Holland, <i>Ecotrust</i>           | Dave Yudkin, <i>HOTLIPS</i>   |
| Clint Johnson, <i>DNV GL</i>               |   |



Location

The Opal Creek Wilderness and Scenic Recreation Area is located about 40 miles east of Salem off of highway 22, northeast of the towns of Gates and Mill City. Typical driving times to Opal Creek are: from Salem, 1.5 hours; from Portland or Eugene, 2.5 hours; from Bend, 2.5-3 hours. For GPS coordinates and driving directions, please visit our website at [www.opalcreek.org/directions](http://www.opalcreek.org/directions).

You will lose cell phone service shortly after turning off of Highway 22. The last 7 miles of the road to the trailhead are packed gravel; we do not recommend bringing low-clearance vehicles. While Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center takes a program hiatus over the winter, the trailhead is open year-round as long as the road is passable.

The town of Jawbone Flats, elevation 2,200', is a privately-owned inholding within the federally-managed Opal Creek Wilderness and Scenic Recreation Area. Opal Creek's district rangers are based out of the US Forest Service station in Detroit, Ore. Please refer to the Willamette National Forest regulations for dispersed camping at Opal Creek, and always practice Leave No Trace on our public lands.



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